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20. (Amended) A stent as recited in claim 54 in combination with one or more additional stent segments.

30. (Amended) A stent as recited in claim 29, wherein said mating frustoconical stent segments are adapted to be separately placed in a bifurcated artery and then, by expansion of one of said frustoconical stent segments, secured to one another.

31. (Amended) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 54 wherein said hoops are formed of a single continuous wire.

32. (Amended) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 54 wherein said securing means is a suture.

34. (Amended) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 54 wherein said securing means is a ring.

35. (Amended) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 54 wherein said securing means is a staple.

36. (Amended) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 54 wherein said securing means is wire twisted into loop.

38. (Amended) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 54 wherein said securing means is bead of thermoplastic material.

39. (Amended) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 54 wherein each longitudinal end of the stent is square to the longitudinal axis of the stent.

40. (Amended) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 54 wherein said stent is at least partially covered in fabric.

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43. (Amended) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 54 further comprising a radiopaque marker disposed on at least one end of the stent.

54. (New) A stent comprising:
a plurality of hoops aligned along a common axis, each of said hoops oriented in a plane substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the stent, and each of said hoops including a plurality of elongate elements joined to one another and forming apices that point in a direction along the axis of the stent; and means for securing an apex of one hoop to a juxtaposed apex of a neighboring hoop.

55. (New) A stent as recited in claim 20 wherein at least one of said additional stent segments comprises:
a plurality of hoops aligned along a common axis, each of said hoops oriented in a plane substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the stent, and each of said hoops including a plurality of elongate elements joined to one another and forming apices that point in a direction along the axis of the stent; and means for securing an apex of one hoop to a juxtaposed apex of a neighboring hoop.

56. (New) A stent comprising a tubular member having a plurality of hoops aligned adjacent one another along the axis of said tubular member, each of said hoops comprising a plurality of elongate elements, with pairs of said elongate elements meeting one another and forming vertices axially pointing in a direction along the axis of the stent, wherein at least some of said vertices axially abut and are

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Ab 7 individually connected to oppositely pointed vertices of elongate
8 elements of an adjacent hoop, wherein the vertices of each hoop
9 pointed in the axial direction lie in a common plane perpendicular to
10 the axis of the tubular member.

1 57. (New) A stent according to claim 56, wherein at
2 least one elongate element in each hoop is a continuation of an
3 elongate element of an adjacent hoop.

1 58. (New) A method of reinforcing a body vessel using a
2 tubular sheath disposed between an entry location in a body and an
3 implantation location, said method comprising the steps of:

- 4 a. providing a stent as recited in claim 56;
- 5 b. compressing the stent into its compressed
6 configuration;
- 7 c. inserting the compressed stent into the tubular
8 sheath;
- 9 d. delivering the compressed stent through the
10 tubular sheath to the implantation location; and
- 11 e. withdrawing the sheath while holding the stent at
12 the implantation location within the vessel and expanding the stent
13 within the implantation location as the sheath is withdrawn by
14 permitting the self-expandable stent, as the constraint of the sheath is
15 removed, to return to said expanded configuration;

16 whereby the stent is securely disposed in the implanted
17 state against said body vessel.

1 59. (New) A method according to claim 58, wherein said
2 stent is comprised of a shape memory material.

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Ab 1 60. (New) A method according to claim 59, wherein said
2 shape memory material is nitinol and step (b) is performed at low
3 temperature.

1 61. (New) A method according to claim 58, wherein at
2 least one elongate element in each hoop is a continuation of an
3 elongate element of an adjacent hoop.

1 62. (New) A prosthesis for placement in a body lumen
2 comprising a tubular graft supported and adapted to be retained in
3 said lumen by a stent as recited in claim 56.
